Uttaranchal and Haryana. The first MOU under the RBH initiative was signed in Dehra Dun (Uttaranchal) for setting up a rural business hub for processing fruit grown in the Ramgarh block and few other Blocks of Nainital District. Thereafter, three more MOUs have been finalized and signed to set up RBHs for Jatropha plantation and production of bio-diesel in Faridabad and Mewat Districts of Haryana and Dungarpur District of Rajasthan. Subsequent to an advertisement in certain leading newspapers, over 150 responses have been recieved from Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and individuals. A conclave of all the stakeholders involved in the development of bio-diesel from Jatropha, through Panchayats under the RBH initiative of the Ministry, was held on 5th November, 2005. In this conclave, which was attended by 100 PRI representatives from all over the country, it was decided to set up a joint committee of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Planning Commission alongwith the stakeholders including scientists and other corporate, for the development of Bio-Fuels through Panchayats under the RBH initiative. The RBH initiative is also scheduled to be discussed in the next meeting of the Council of States Ministers on Panchayati Raj.

Status of Chairpersons of Zilla Panchayats

2979. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairpersons of Zilla Panchayats in various States in the country have been conferred with the Status of Ministers/Minister of States;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether it is a fact that District Collectors do not accord necessary respect and co-operation to the Chairpersons in some States;

(d) whether Government have received such complaints; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) According to the available information, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and West Bengal have conferred the status of Minister of State on the Chairpersons of Zilla Panchayats.

(c) It is possible that some Chairpersons in some States feel that some District Collectors are not according them the necessary respect and cooperation.

(d) and (e) No specific complaints have been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

Allocation of funds to Gram Panchayats

†2980. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government provides some funds to State Governments by directly allocating the same to Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the funds provided to each State Government for allocating the same to each Panchayat during the last three years and the works for which these funds have been provided;

(c) the purpose of sending funds to Panchayats directly; and

(d) the details of the verification of the fact that each Panchayat has received allocated amount?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Funds are allocated to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Central Financial Commission Grants. SGRY is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. The main objective of the Scheme is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, alongside the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in the rural areas. SGRY is implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at District, Block and Village levels, in the ratio of 20 : 30 : 50. Guidelines have been laid down for earmarking minimum 50% of the Village Panchayat share of allocation for the creation of need-based village infrastrucuture in SC/ST habitations/Wards. The details showing the mandays generated and works completed under SGRY from 2002-03 till September, 2005 is are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

The Central Finance Commission are required to make recommendations on the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.